CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system for analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

a first interface to a clinical data store storing clinically related data;

a second interface to a knowledge base; and

an inference engine, the inference engine communicating with the clinical data store via the first interface and with the knowledge base via the second interface, the inference engine configured to selectively perform comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the knowledge base.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the clinical data store comprises a data warehouse.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the data warehouse stores clinically related data from at least one clinical facility.

4. A system according to claim 3, wherein the at least one clinical facility comprises at least one of a hospital site and a research site.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the comparative analysis comprises an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein the clinical guidelines comprise best practices data.

8. A system according to claim 7, wherein the best practices data comprises pharmaceutical information, medical procedure information and historical outcomes information.

9. A system according to claim 1, wherein the inference engine generates projected outcomes information based on the clinically related data and the knowledge base.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein the projected outcomes information comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

11. A system according to claim 1, wherein the inference engine stores the comparative analysis to storage.

12. A method of analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

accessing clinically related data;

accessing a knowledge base; and

selectively performing a comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the knowledge base.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of accessing clinically related data comprises accessing a data warehouse.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the data warehouse stores clinically related data from at least one clinical facility.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one clinical facility comprises at least one of a hospital site and a research site.

16. A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of selectively performing a comparative analysis comprises performing an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

17. A method according to claim 12, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the clinical guidelines comprise best practices data.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the best practices data comprises pharmaceutical information, medical procedure information and historical outcomes information.

20. A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of performing a comparative analysis comprises a step of generating projected outcomes information based on the clinically related data and the knowledge base.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the projected outcomes information comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

22. A method according to claim 12, further comprising a step of storing the comparative analysis to storage.

23. An analytic clinical report, the report being generated according to a method of:

accessing clinically related data;

accessing a knowledge base; and

selectively performing a comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the knowledge base.

24. A report according to claim 23, wherein the step of accessing clinically related data comprises accessing a data warehouse.

25. A report according to claim 23, wherein the step of selectively performing a comparative analysis comprises performing an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

26. A report according to claim 23, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

27. A report according to claim 23, wherein the step of selectively performing a comparative analysis comprises a step of generating projected outcomes information based on the clinically related data and the knowledge base.

28. A report according to claim 27, wherein the projected outcomes information comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

29. A system for analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

communications interface means, the communications interface means comprising a first interface to clinical data storage means for storing clinically related data and a second interface to knowledge base means for storing clinical guidelines; and

inference engine means, the inference engine means communicating with the clinical data store and with the knowledge base via the communications interface means, the inference engine means configured to selectively perform comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the clinical guidelines.

30. A system according to claim 29, wherein the clinical data storage means comprises a data warehouse.

31. A system according to claim 29, wherein the comparative analysis comprises an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

32. A system according to claim 29, wherein the inference engine means generates projected outcomes information based on the clinically related data and the clinical guidelines.

33. A system according to claim 32, wherein the projected outcomes information comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

34. A system according to claim 29, wherein the inference engine means stores the comparative analysis to storage.